This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated using a current loop wire line telephone connection, which method comprises:

connecting a device incorporating a switch hook to a telephone line;

detecting the use of the telephone line, by a telecommunication apparatus connected to the telephone line; ~~and~~

activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook;

detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals on the telephone line;

generating a constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal in response to detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals;

applying the constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal to the telephone line, whereby Dual Tone Multi-Frequency dialing cannot take place on the telephone line, and

notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress,

the step of notifying the telephone company comprised of the substep of applying by the device a predetermined multi-frequency signal to the telephone line, whereby the device can utilize the extended Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signaling set to notify the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress, and whereby the telecommunication apparatus is unable to place an outgoing call using the telephone line.

2.- (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling a security switch that can be enabled or disabled, wherein when the security switch is enabled, the switch hook is activated to go off hook during use of the telephone line by a telecommunications apparatus connected thereto.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, in which ~~the external circuit is a timer circuit, whereby~~ the switch hook is enabled and/or disabled at predetermined times by an external circuit.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~2~~, in which the external circuit is a property security system.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~6~~, in which the step of detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals comprises the substep of detecting a predetermined sequence of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, in which the predetermined sequence of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals is programmable.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of recording the time and date corresponding to each detected unauthorized use of the telephone line, whereby a record of attempted calls is made.

10.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 14, where the step of notifying the telephone company is comprised of the following substeps:~~

A method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated using a current loop wire line telephone connection, which method comprises:

connecting a device incorporating a switch hook to a telephone line;

detecting the use of the telephone line, by a telecommunication apparatus connected to the telephone line;

activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook;

detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals on the telephone line;

generating a constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal in response to detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals;

applying the constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal to the telephone line, whereby Dual Tone Multi-Frequency dialing cannot take place on the telephone line, and

notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress,

the step of notifying the telephone company comprised of the substep of

initiating a digital communications link with the telephone company; and

transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated using a current loop wire line telephone connection, which method comprises:

connecting a monitor device incorporating a switch hook to a telephone line;

detecting the use of the telephone line, by a telecommunication apparatus connected to the telephone line;

activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook;

detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals on the telephone line;

generating a constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal in response to detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals;

applying the constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal to the telephone line, whereby Dual Tone Multi-Frequency dialing cannot take place on the telephone line, and

notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress,

the step of notifying the telephone company comprised of the substep of

initiating a digital communications link with the telephone company; and

transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts, ~~The method of claim 16,~~ in which the step of transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts further includes the substep of transmitting data indicating the time and date of the unauthorized call attempts.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the monitor device comprises: ~~A telephone line monitoring device comprising:~~

a telephone line interface for connection to a telephone network line, ~~including~~ in which the ~~a~~ switch hook ~~for~~ alternatively ~~placing~~ places the ~~telephone line monitoring~~ device in an on-hook or off-hook position, whereby the ~~a~~ telecommunication apparatus operatively connected to the telephone network line is unable to place an outgoing call using the telephone network line when the ~~monitoring~~ device is in an off-hook position;

a line monitor circuit connected to the telephone line interface, which circuit provides an output signal when a telephone device operatively connected to the telephone line has gone off hook; and

a microcontroller circuit electrically connected to the parallel set detection circuit output, the microcontroller providing an output which controls the state of the hook switch.

19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 18, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a security switch, which switch enables and disables operation of the switch hook, the switch being electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 18, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal detector with an input electrically connected to the telephone line, and output electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the Dual Tone Multi-Frequency detector outputs decoded Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals to the microcontroller.

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 20, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal generator, having an input electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, and which output is electrically connected to the telephone line.

22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 20, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a telephone line data modem connected to the microcontroller circuit, and also connected to the telephone line, whereby the modem provides for digital communications between the microcontroller and the telephone network.

23. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 20, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a wireless RF transceiver connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the transceiver provides for communications indicating unauthorized call activity between the microcontroller and a wireless communications network.

24. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 18, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes a clock circuit electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~device~~ of claim 20, wherein the monitor device further ~~including~~ includes an indicating means, electrically- connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the indicating means provides indication to the device user of whether the telephone line is being used.